



Family Program Office
3545 Mustang Ave
Battle Creek, MI 49015

On The Home Front

Volume 5, Issue 6

November 2005

Important Phone Numbers

Family Program Office
1-800-753-6201
ext 3493

Chaplain's Office
269-969-3371

Legal Office
269-969-3232

ID Cards/DEERS
269-969-3216

Finance
269-969-3224

TriCARE
1-877-363-6337

Security Forces
269-969-3300

What's Inside?

Events	2
MWR & discounts	3
Make yourself useful	3
Mortgage help	4
Scholarship Info	4

OneSource
1-800-707-5784

Call 24/7 for
free assistance

Military families are recognized with Military Family Month

November is Military Family Month, formally established by the Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) in 1996, to demonstrate the nation's support for and commitment to the families of military personnel. With hundreds of thousands of service members deployed overseas, especially in Iraq and Afghanistan today, this recognition of the sacrifice that military families make every day has never been more important.

A message from President Bush

"Throughout our history, our troops have answered a great call and lived a code of honor and service. During this historic time, we continue to look to those in uniform as examples of patriotism and selfless dedication...Our nation is also grateful for the military families who serve our country by giving their support to these brave individuals. As we continue to fight terrorism and advance peace around the world, America stands behind you and the members of our Armed Forces."

Annual contests announced for military youth

Each year during Military Family Month in November, ASYMCA launches its annual art contest, co-sponsored by GEICO, and its essay contest, co-sponsored by Lockheed Martin.

The Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA), a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, is a national member association of the YMCA of the USA and works with the Department of Defense. Headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, the ASYMCA has provided support services to military service members and their families for more than 140 years, particularly focused on junior-enlisted men and women — the individuals on the front lines defending our nation and their families. ASYMCA operates at 17 dedicated branch locations and seven affiliated community YMCAs, as well as 10 Department of Defense/Department of Homeland Security affiliates worldwide. ASYMCA runs more than 150 programs around the world to ease the burden of the families of junior-enlisted military personnel. Some are carried out at single ASYMCA branch locations. Others operate at multiple branch locations and are customized to meet the specific needs of that community, ranging from recreation and fitness to educational and financial support.

Art Contest

ASYMCA asks elementary school children of military families to submit a piece of artwork that best illustrates his or her military family. Children from all branches of the military, comprising Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Reserve/National Guard, Coast Guard, and Department of Defense, are invited to submit a drawing.

First-place winners from each branch of service are awarded a \$500 U.S. savings bond; second-place winners receive a \$100 U.S. savings bond. All winning artwork is featured on the annual Military Family Month Poster, which is distributed to members of Congress and the Department of Defense, and displayed publicly throughout the year.

Essay Contest

Elementary and high school children of active-duty or retired military personnel in the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, and National Guard are invited to submit an essay about why they like to read. Essays from entrants in grades 1-8 must not exceed 300 words, and essays from

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There is no excuse to be bored.....November is filled with things to do!

Event: Family Program Meeting

Description: Hear about the latest news, upcoming events, and benefits for military families. Open forum to ask questions, get answers, or offer suggestions. Discuss military and family support issues such as benefits, deployment, events, training, assistance and support, or whatever else is on your mind!

Location: Rm 106, Bldg 6905 (known as the old safety office, just down the hall from where you get ID cards)

Date: UTA Saturday, November 5, 2005

Time: 1:00 pm

For more info: 269-969-3403 or email robin.berry@mibatt.af.mil

Event: 4th Annual Road Hawg Race

Description: 5K/10K Run and 5K Walk. All participants will receive a long sleeve t-shirt. Prizes for winners in each event and age category.

Location: On base.

Date: Saturday, November 12, 2005

Time: 9:00 AM (packet pick-up begins at 7:00 am)

Cost: \$25 per entry or \$65.00 per family of four

For more info: 269-969-3403 or email road.hawg@mibatt.af.mil

Event: Military Family Coffee with VA presentation

Description: Get all your questions about the VA answered and enjoy fellowship with other military families. A representative from the Veterans Administration will talk about benefits and services that are available to service members and families. There will also be a Q&A following the presentation. Coffee, snacks, and children's activities will be provided. We hope to have a large turn-out for this presentation, so please be sure to join us!

Location: Dining Facility (Bldg 6930)

Date: Sunday, November 13, 2005

Time: 1:30 pm (Social/activities following presentation)

Cost: FREE

For more info: Please RSVP by calling 269-969-3493 or email robin.berry@mibatt.af.mil

Event: Blessings in a Box

Description: Join military families, friends, and community volunteers to pack donated items into care packages to send to troops overseas. Last year we had approximately 75 people attend, and packed over 100 boxes. While some helpers sort items, others pack or write cards to enclose in the boxes. This is a great family activity!

Location: Dining Facility (Bldg 6930)

Date: Saturday, November 19, 2005

Time: 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Cost: FREE (Donations of items or funds to help pay for postage is accepted, but not necessary to attend)

For more info: Please call to sign-up at 269-969-3493 or email robin.berry@mibatt.af.mil

Event: Holiday Parade

Description: Families are needed to walk or ride in the parade. Volunteers are needed to help prepare for the parade and decorate the 'float'. Walkers will hand out stickers to the crowd during the parade. Children age 8 and under are needed for a special role with costumes. Contact the Family Program Office for more details or to sign-up.

Location: Downtown Battle Creek

Date: Saturday, November 19, 2005

Time: 5:30 PM line-up (parade begins at 6:00 PM)

Cost: FREE

For more info: Please call to sign-up 269-969-3493 or email robin.berry@mibatt.af.mil

Event: Chili Cook-off

Description: Enter your own concoction or join us for lunch and enter your dirty-spoon vote for the best chili around these parts! Individuals and teams are encouraged to try to steal the Best Bite, Best Burn, or Showmanship titles from last year's cooks.

Location: Dining Facility (Bldg 6930)

Date: Wednesday, November 23, 2005

Time: Lunchtime (11:30 AM)

Cost: Tickets will be available in November. For voting: \$2.00 to receive 24 ounces of chili to scarf down or scold your tongue. Free entry for teams, but cost varies depending on your recipe...

For more info: Please call for more information or to enter your chili, 269-969-3493 or email robin.berry@mibatt.af.mil

Contests *from page 1*

entrants in grades 9-12 must not exceed 500 words. DoD civilian dependents are also eligible to enter an honorary category.

First-place winners from grade categories 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, and 7-8 each receive a \$500 U.S. savings bond; second place winners receive a \$100 U.S. savings bond. First place winners from grade categories 9-10 and 11-12 each receive a \$1,000 U.S. savings bond; second-place winners receive a \$200 U.S. savings bond. \$100 U.S. Savings bonds are awarded for two essays of honorable mention. Selections from the 2004 winning essays were on display at Ronald Reagan National Airport in Washington, D.C., during November 2004, and then moved to the U.S. Navy Museum at the Washington Navy Yard.

If you are interested in submitting artwork or an essay for the competitions, please contact the Family Program Office for more information. Give it a shot - you could win!

Current military discounts and MWR vouchers available

Listed below are some the latest military discounts available near the base, and MWR vouchers that are available in the Family Program Office. Please contact the Family Program Office for more details on any of these discounts or if you know of another discount that is not listed here.

- ☺ \$1.00 admission at Cheap Flicks Movie Theater
- ☺ \$9.00 off Dinner & Show at Cornwells Turkey Farm
- ☺ \$3.00 off Ringling Bros & Barnum & Bailey Circus at the Palace of Auburn Hills Nov 9-13
- ☺ 20% off regular priced menu items at Pizza Parlor (W. Michigan Ave)
- ☺ 20% off any services or products at Master Cuts in Lakeview Square Mall
- ☺ 10% off at Menards
- ☺ 10% off at Lowe's
- ☺ 10% off at Graffittis (Helmer Rd)
- ☺ 10% off at Knapp's Pancake House & Restaurant (Capital Ave)
- ☺ 10% off at Quiznos Subs (Columbia Ave)
- ☺ 10% off at Conversations Coffee House (Capital Ave)
- ☺ \$1.00 off at Kare's Cafe in Augusta
- ☺ \$500 cash allowance on purchase of any new Jeep (Everyday Heroes Reward)
- ☺ FREE tickets to Busch Gardens and SeaWorld (go to www.herosalute.com)

This listing in does NOT constitute official endorsement of any business/service by the 110FW, ANG, AF, or Department of Defense. Informational purposes only.

Make yourself useful

by Dr. John C. Maxwell

Benjamin Franklin once wrote, "I would rather have it said, 'he lived usefully' than 'he died rich.'"

This wasn't just a casual motto for Franklin. It was the way he lived his life, particularly as an inventor. According to an article on www.pbs.org, Franklin was a practical inventor, specializing in devices that were "designed to help improve or solve everyday problems." These included bifocal lenses, swim fins, the odometer, the Franklin stove and the lightning rod.

Franklin could have made a fortune on these inventions. But, in his desire to make them as widely available as possible, he didn't patent a single one. "Instead of seeing the world in terms of how much money he could make, Franklin saw the world in terms of how many people he could help," says Dr. John C. Van Horne, director of the Library Company of Philadelphia. "To Benjamin Franklin, being useful was its own reward."

Living life usefully was a reasonable goal for an 18th-century inventor like Franklin. But what about those of us who live and lead in the 21st century? Is usefulness worth striving for today?

Yes, it is, and here's why: When you're young and feeling immortal, it's easy to judge your life solely by how personally fulfilling it is, how well you're able to provide for your family, how quickly you're achieving your career goals, etc. Those are all important aspects of life - especially when retirement is decades away.

But perspectives have an interesting way of changing with age. When you're 80 years old, looking back over your life while rocking on your front porch, personal satisfaction and career goals may not seem quite as significant as they once did. What will likely be much more important is what you did with your life that was of lasting value.

How many people did you help - financially, professionally or personally? What lasting lessons did you teach the people in your sphere of influence? How did your leadership prepare those same individuals for success - in work and life? What did you do - in any area of life - that will outlast you?

In other words, what did you do with this gift of living? It will be an important question when you're 80, so it should be an important question now.

What makes a life useful? Several things immediately come to mind - giving, loving, serving, helping, encouraging, teaching and mentoring, to name a few. These are all relational activities - done person-to-person, friend-to-friend, leader-to-follower, or peer-to-peer. If you intentionally engage

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Useful *from previous page*

in these behaviors, you are well on your way to living a useful life.

There is, however, another way that usefulness is developed - through challenges and adversity. Getting fired. The death of a loved one. Working for a bad boss. Losing a key client. Financial troubles. Leading problematic people. Personal illness. And so on.

Though never welcome, difficult events, situations and circumstances often serve as a sort of boot camp for a useful life. More specifically, they increase our usefulness as leaders in three key ways.

1. They build character and increase resiliency for future challenges.

There's just something about surviving adversity - even if it's only by the skin of our teeth - that makes us stronger. And stronger people are more useful people.

2. They teach us what not to do next time.

This is especially true when the challenge involves working with, or for,

a poor leader. Coleman Peterson, the former head of human resources for Wal-Mart Stores Inc., highlighted this in a recent *Leadership Wired* interview. "I have learned leadership style," he said, "not only from those who did things well, but also from those who did not do things well, where I found myself going away saying, 'If I ever have a chance to have a leadership role at that level, this is what I would be sure not to do.'"

3. They make us more empathetic to others who are dealing with adversity.

From a leadership standpoint, this is an incredibly valuable benefit. After all, leadership is largely about relationships, and good relationships must involve some degree of caring. One way to show your people that you truly care is to sincerely empathize when they are struggling with a difficult situation.

Dwight Thompson said, "You can spend your life any way you want to, but you can only spend it once." So, take your cue from Benjamin Franklin, and do everything you can to live your one life usefully.

Need mortgage help?

Your home is your biggest investment. If you can't make your next mortgage payment, or if you are already behind, don't wait another minute to find help.

The foreclosure process can move quickly, but there are ways to find help. The Homeownership Preservation Foundation has joined forces with mortgage lenders, nonprofit organizations and city government agencies to help keep more families in their homes. Call the homeownership hotline at 1-888-995-HOPE for immediate assistance:

- Receive FREE credit counseling from nonprofit, HUD-certified organizations - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Learn how to work with your lender to bring your mortgage up to date
- Develop a realistic household budget to help ensure long-term homeownership.

For more information on money and finances, budgeting, or financial assistance, please contact the Family Program Office. Free confidential help and information is always available.

Commissary Scholarship Time is coming!

It's time for military families to start thinking about what they could do with a \$1,500 scholarship. Information and applications for the 2006 Scholarships for Military Children program will be available in November at commissaries worldwide as well as online at the <http://www.militaryscholar.org/> website or the Defense Commissary Agency's (DeCA) site at <http://www.commissaries.com>. Last year, 500 students received \$1,500 scholarship awards. In five years the program, which is administered by Fisher House Foundation and funded by manufacturers and suppliers of groceries and services in the commissary system, has awarded nearly \$4 million in scholarships to more than 2,400 students.

October coffee was festive and friendly!

We had approximately 25 people attend our October Coffee on base. We met many new military families and enjoyed the donuts and other delicious snacks. Our mini-harvest festival gave many of us a chance to express our creativity as we painted and adorned pumpkins with decorations. A few of us also got to talking so much that we didn't even have time to paint a pumpkin! Many thanks to those who helped: Deb & Dayna Slucter, who brought snacks and cider. Sarah Potter for bringing a snack, and helping the kids. The Shoup Family and the Cane Family for helping with the set-up. The Wilson family for helping with the kids and clean-up. And, special thanks to all the new faces who came!

This month, on Nov 13, we will have a special guest from the VA who will be speaking at our Family Coffee. We hope to have a large turn-out for this presentation, so please be sure to join us! To help prepare, we are requesting that you RSVP at least 2 days in advance.

